

FAQ: Epinephrine Auto-Injector Public Act 186 & 187

1. When do school boards need to have a policy for epinephrine legislation?

No later than the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, a school board shall develop and implement policies consistent with the MDE medication administration guidelines addendum.

2. How do school boards get and fund the epinephrine auto-injectors?

School Boards should attempt to obtain funding from private sources, or from another source other than the State of Michigan. Other sources can include local donations from community resources, philanthropy groups, and local hospital(s). Any authorized prescriber can write a prescription to a local school board by inserting the name of the school board as the name of the patient when issuing a prescription. The one written prescription will cover all the buildings in the district. Additionally please go to www.EpiPen4Schools.com for resource information about a national program that offers free epinephrine auto-injectors.

3. How are schools going to get a prescription for epinephrine auto-injectors from a physician?

School Boards can ask any local physician or authorized prescriber to issue a prescription to a school board. One written prescription to a school board can allow for all district buildings to obtain the two required epinephrine auto-injectors per building.

4. Does the law pertain to the Great Start Readiness Program, Head Start or Day Care sites?

The law pertains only to K-12 students and any other individuals on school grounds who are believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction.

5. Does this law apply to private schools?

No, it does not apply to private schools.

6. Would the prescribing physician be responsible for oversight of the training?

No

7. How do you store an epinephrine auto-injector and what is the correct temperature?

All epinephrine auto-injectors should be stored according to manufacturer's directions to maintain effectiveness and in a clearly labeled, unlocked, easily accessible cabinet at room temperature (between 59-86 degrees F).

8. What do schools do with the epinephrine auto-injectors when school is out for the summer?

At the end of a school year any epinephrine auto-injector that will expire during the next school year needs to be replaced for the following school year. Epinephrine auto-injectors with a long expiration life that will last well into the following school year should be safely stored in a temperature range of between 59-86 degrees F over the summer and be available for the following school year.

9. Can nurses train unlicensed staff on how to recognize and treat anaphylaxis in a person that has no history of an allergy?

Yes. The law addresses individuals who were not previously known to have an allergic response with a substance that causes an allergic reaction progressing into a life threatening anaphylaxis reaction.

10. Are stock epinephrine auto-injectors required on school field trips?

No, that is not the purpose of this law. However for those individuals that have a known allergic reaction they should have their epinephrine auto-injector on their person when age appropriate or under the supervision of an adult on field trips.

11. Are nurses from ISDs or local health departments who provide training for unlicensed staff expected to also supervise school staff? How can that be done?

According to the law "supervision" extends to the actual training of school staff. Additional supervision is up to the discretion of the nurse, although not required as part of this legislation.

12. Would schools inform parents/guardian so they could opt-out their child with a condition that precluded use of Epinephrine? (e.g. dysrhythmia)

This would be a policy decision made by a local school board.

13. Where can schools find a training program?

A small workgroup of school nurses reviewed several online training modules. The following links to these modules provide different levels of training that can be provided by a licensed registered professional nurse and meet the MDE recommended guidelines for responding to an anaphylaxis at school.

- ✓ National Association of School Nurses. **Get Trained**
<http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/FoodAllergyandAnaphylaxis/GetTrained>
- ✓ Schools.AllergyHome.org **Staff Training Module: What School Staff Need to Know**
<http://www.allergyhome.org/schools/food-allergy-school-staff-training-full-length-module/>

- ✓ Mylan Specialty L.P. **Get Schooled in Anaphylaxis. What you Need to Know**
<http://www.anaphylaxis101.com>. Click on *Host an Anaphylaxis Awareness Assembly* to download the PowerPoint.